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13 October 1945

To: Lt. Col. Howard M. Chapin

I was very sorry to learn after my return from Rome, that you left already for the United States. Thus it was impossible for me to express personally my thank and deepest gratitude to you and through you to the Office of Strategic Services for everything what I got in the service with you. From the very first moment on when I joined the OSS you were not only the natural leader and chief, but a friend, and through you I began to know and respect the real spirit of the USA. I knew it already, but this personal contact strengthened my faith. I was treated in the organization as all the employees who were citizens of the US, and nobody did let me to feel that I am an outsider. This is the main reason why I would like to express in proper words and proper facts my deepest gratitude.

With the liquidation of the OSS I have to settle a personal problem too. In this connection I thank you for everything you have done for getting a visa for me too. But there is something else what I have to write you because I did not have opportunity to speak about.

1. It is my firm decision to go to the United States, and get US citizenship. Nothing can change my plans. Even if any Hungarian Government would offer me any of the outside posts, I won't undertake any steps to get such a job. It was merely an idea of mine. If for the interest of the United States would be advisable to accept such an appointment I would accept it only after having consulted you or others who will be responsible in the service. In such a case nothing would change on my status and I would continue to work for the United States Government. But I would like to stress again, I won't undertake anything to get the job.

2. It is also my firm decision to offer my services for the new organization. You know me and you know what can I do. There is no doubt in my mind that I could do more and more on my proper field.

3. Lt. Ulmer hinted a possibility that in the case of certain circumstances I had to go back during November to Rome. May I express my opinion that it would be advisable for me to stay here.

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2.

All my plans are developing well. You certainly will hear about the contacts of Klein. My other man who wants to go to Berlin is a constant excellent source and he will go to Berlin and further. The third man who just arrived is the most promising if there is interest for all that. It would be a pity if I had to drop all that.

4. Beside any other considerations there is a very serious reason why I would not like quit the service. This is my life and the air for me. I ~~can~~ have any other civilian occupation, I definitely can not loose my interest for all that I am already trained and give it to any US agency.

5. In the case when I could definitely quit the service and should not get for the time being the visa, I would like to consider the following very serious problem. Going back to Rome signifies for me to become a ~~DP~~ because I have and do not want to have any connection with the former Hungarian Diplomatic and otherwise I would become a person without occupation. I know what happens to IFE. The Italian Government is not the US Government and if "I have been dropped" the Italians won't have any consideration for me. At the other hand I don't know anybody from the US Embassy in Rome. This is not a financial problem as my offer expressed in para 2 has no other such a consideration. Thus I think if I should go to Rome, and if I have no connection with the interim organization, I would like to have some contact with US authorities. That could be managed I think in different ways. I could become a correspondent of the already mentioned National Catholic Welfare Conference News Service, or other Agency, or I could get some job which is available for foreign nationals too at the Embassy, without any payment. I'm sure you understand the seriousness of this problem in the case if and when I would become a "former Hungarian" without any identification cards (in Europe this is the important), without right to stay where I am, on the mercy of the Italian Government and the Hungarian Government, with the constant laughter of Baron Apor and all his associates.

That is all what I wanted to tell you beside my gratitude. I can wait patiently for the visa, and I can wait patiently for any other things, the last paragraph is a problem for life and death in this lost continent which I loved so much, but which will be for me all Americans and good Europeans too.

I sent one copy of this letter to Lt. Blum to have him informed.

Yours  
Zsolt Aradi